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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1961



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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1961

Town Hall,

Ulverston.

July, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1961.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961 (Provisional)	10,515
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1961	10,400
Number of inhabited houses	3,375
Rateable Value	£120,025
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£475,182

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, light engineering and clothing manufacture. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1961 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 140 births registered during 1961 68 were males of which 1 was illegitimate and 72 were females, all legitimate.

Approximately 76% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 58, Vascular lesions of nervous system 28 and Malignant growths, 20. Of the 58 deaths from Heart disease, 43 were due to Coronary Artery disease.



Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births
1961	140	13.5	138	13.3	3	21.0	Nil	Nil	1	7.1	Nil	Nil
1960	162	15.6	159	15.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	6.2	1	6.2
1959	142	13.6	158	15.2	1	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958	139	13.4	157	15.1	1	7	Nil	Nil	3	21.6	2	14.4
1957	150	14.4	112	10.8	8	51	1	6.33	1	7	1	7
1956	158	15.3	131	12.6	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	38	6	38
Average 5 years- 1956-60	-	14.5	-	13.8	-	18	-	1.27	-	14.6	-	13.1

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 13.6 per 1,000  
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.86) = 11.4 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	<u>England and Wales</u>		<u>Ulverston Urban District</u>	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1961	17.4	12.0	13.6	11.4
1960	17.1	11.5	15.7	12.7
1959	16.5	11.6	13.8	12.7
1958	16.4	11.7	13.5	13.6
1957	16.1	11.5	14.5	10.0

#### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District  
North Lonsdale Rural District

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1 -  
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate, R.S.I.  
Meat and Other Foods.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### WATER SUPPLY

In April the Furness Water Board was constituted from the former water undertakings of the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness, the Urban Districts of Dalton, Grange and Ulverston and the Rural District of North Lonsdale.

The Ulverston Urban District is supplied with water from the Fennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a service reservoir of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year, eight bacteriological examinations being made all with satisfactory results.

During the year 64 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,298 houses were supplied direct to the houses. 10 were supplied by standpipes and 10 from private supplies.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1961 there were approximately 3,350 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 6,000 fresh water closets.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(a) By the local authority	41	Nil
(b) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons	23	Nil

### 1. Inspections of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	82
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	125
	(c)	Number of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	22
(2)		Total number of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	87

### 2. Houses Demolished

#### In Clearance Areas:

- (1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.
- (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957

#### Not in Clearance Areas:

- (4) As a result of informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957
- (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health
- (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts
- (7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders

<u>Houses</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
<u>Demolished</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
9	3	2
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

### 3. Unfit Houses Closed

- (1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957
- (2) Under Sections 17(3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957
- (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957

	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
2	19	5
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil



## 4.

<u>By</u> <u>Owner.</u>	<u>By Local</u> <u>Authority</u>
21	-
1	Nil
Nil	Nil
Nil	-

Nil

Number of houses (1)	Number of occu- pants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
1	Nil

Action during the year:

<u>No. of Schemes</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected</u>
1	1
2	2
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil

No. of dwelling or  
other buildings  
affected

44  
39  
36



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations 1947-52.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Number of cases in year					1961		Deaths
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	
Scarlet fever	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Measles	5	30	337	139	89	90	1	0
Whooping cough	7	10	10	1	3	5	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	1	11	0	4	2	0	0
Para-typhoid fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	13	48	360	142	100	97	1	0

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1961.

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
	4		1		1		0	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0



FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

1.  Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	55	2	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	2	1	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-  Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S1)	4	3	-	Nil
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temerature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned Acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.



## ANNUAL REPORT 1961

Annual Reports for several past years have stressed some particular aspect of public health administration, housing, clean food, or slaughterhouses which has predominated the year's work. 1961 had no specific highlights but the different sections appertaining to environment and sanitation have been supervised during the general day to day duties.

A particularly noticeable feature was the diminishing numbers of complaints received, principally regarding housing defects, and leaves one to believe that people are either satisfied with their present conditions or that slum clearance has wiped out many of the old sources of trouble. As some 3% of the total houses have been closed or demolished during the past five years it is obvious that the latter must have done much to improve living conditions and at the same time benefit that section of the population affected, i.e. the 269 people re-housed. Other improvements of recent years are the completion of the sewerage system and disposal which has done much to prevent flooding and fouling of beck courses; the closing of the majority of old and isolated middens and dry closets; discontinuation of the use of several offensive trades (i.e. gut scraper, rag and bone dealers etc) so that those nuisances and problems no longer exist. This, together with the post-war housing estates, and, the modernisation and improvement in many of the food premises must bear favourably on the environmental hygiene of the community.

The continuation of slum clearance is however, still a problem which will continue for many years. During 1961 the last of the 40 M.A.P. bungalows were demolished and building of the old persons bungalows started. Three houses, - (8 Greggs Cottages, 15B Soutergate and 5, Knights Yard) were closed and nine Local Authority houses, - (8 M.A.P. Bungalows and Watery Lane House) demolished. In all, seven families comprising 22 people were re-housed as a result. It would appear that this limited progress, considerably behind the target figure fixed in 1955 of dealing with 30 houses per year, is building up future commitments which may well be more difficult to cope with. The Ellers area is ripe for demolition and clearing up generally and the remaining M.A.P. bungalows are due for consideration in 1962. In addition Green Lane Estate Bungalows have only a life of two more years and together with this must be coupled the houses affected by the trunk road (Greggs Cottages, Knights Yard, Ellers, etc) and the unfit houses already earmarked for slum clearance in Sunderland Terrace, Buxton Place, The Gill etc. The financial costs involved are appreciated but it is to be hoped that the task ahead may gain a new impetus to see a speedy end to the unfit houses and the demolition and clearing up of the many closed and derelict looking buildings.

Once again the number of applications for grants for improvement of houses has increased to a total of 44 Standard Grants and one Discretionary Grant during the year. The majority were in respect of owner-occupied houses and although it is a satisfactory effort, it is a pity that the numbers of improvements for tenanted houses could not increase so rapidly. Many of the houses affected were of the older type and with the instalation of modern amenities will make satisfactory dwellings for many years and equally postpone the possible earlier consideration as unfit houses.



22 houses were made fit or had defects remedied after serving formal or informal notices under the Public Health Acts and 82 houses were inspected altogether for housing defects. Once again some delay is being experienced in having repairs carried out, mainly due to builders and contractors being actively engaged in other work.

There were no applications for certificates of disrepair or cancellation of existing certificates. Where Certificates are still operative some landlords and tenants have reached a compromise whereby the full rent increase allowed has not been demanded in exchange for not carrying out all the works listed.

#### Meat and Food Inspections.

The Council's Public Abattoir has continued to bear the fruits of its inception and during the year had a larger throughput than any previous year since meat control ceased. On the basis of the Ministry's meat consumption figures the amount of carcase meat produced altogether would be sufficient for a population of 20,000 and during the latter months reached a peak of over 32,000 i.e. three times greater than the Urban Districts requirements. This has necessitated considerably more time having to be spent on inspection and management than previously. It is gratifying to report that the premises were at no time working up to maximum capacity although the arrival of large numbers of animals for immediate slaughter after Thursdays auction is the cause of some overtime in the peak period. Altogether some 8,249 animals were dealt with and inspected, and, as the figures given later will show, only 32 carcasses were rejected as being unfit for consumption. Once again tuberculosis was not found in any bovine animal although isolated instances of a localised nature are still found in some pigs. A large proportion of the rejected carcasses arrived as casualty animals having suffered injury or sickness. Distomatosis or flukey liver causes a high proportion of ox liver to be rejected and may well be a needless commercial loss which could be prevented by better animal husbandry.

#### Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1358	191	263	4646	1791
Number Inspected	1358	191	263	4646	1791
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	5	19	5
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	40	13	-	19	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	3%	8.4%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.5%



	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Cysticercosis					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	-	-	-

Periodical inspections have been carried out at all food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Bye-laws and 117 visits have been made. In seven instances failure to comply with a specific section of the Regulations was remedied without resort to formal action and it can be generally stated that a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained in the majority of premises at all times. Some food premises have followed the modern trend of changing to self-service shops and which has at the same time given scope for improving the general lay-out. The storage, preparing rooms and washing facilities have been brought up to a higher standard, from what frequently were old rooms in old buildings which required constant attention to maintain a standard which just satisfied the Regulations. At the time of inspection, or where specifically asked, food stocks are inspected and the following were condemned after being voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption -

23 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs of fish  
308 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs of tinned meats and sausages  
12 lbs of tinned vegetables  
70 lbs of tinned fruit  
200 lbs of biscuits  
19 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of cheese

Periodical inspections were made at houses registered for picking shrimps but as the time of picking varies daily many visits did not coincide with the actual work. Besides being seasonal, shrimp picking also occurs spasmodically and it is for this reason that some houses although inspected were not found at that time actively engaged in the process for which registered. It is open to doubt whether adequate supervision can be controlled in domestic premises engaged in food preparation.

24 samples of milk as sold for retail consumption were submitted for analysis for cleanliness, and the presence of Brucella and Tuberculosis. 19 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness and five were unsatisfactory. These latter samples concerned two producers and the Milk Production Officer was informed so that the necessary action could be taken. Visits and advisory work was carried out covering work in the cowsheds and methods in the dairy and the latest samples are satisfactory. There were no positive milk samples when analysed for the presence of tuberculosis, and 20 of the samples were negative to the Brucella Ring Test and four positive. On further culture one of these was positive, two negative and one with no result. Investigations are still proceeding.

Eight samples of the public water supply were also submitted for analysis and all were in the category of "Highly satisfactory". Samples of sausages and ice-cream where manufactured locally, were also found satisfactory.



## Rodent Control

The control of vermin is constantly exercised although as yet no complete solution for the total eradication has been found. A total of 537 premises were inspected for the presence of rats or mice and in consequence 305 premises were found to be infested to a minor degree. A total of 905 treatments and re-treatments were carried out which necessitated 1355 inspections during the year. In addition to this, three Council houses and three private houses were disinfested for bugs and 31 other houses for other insects including cockroaches, fleas and ants.

Contracts are still maintained on farm lands and smallholdings for controlling rats and mice and many food stores, warehouses and similar buildings have arranged for monthly inspections to be carried out at their premises without prior notification. The sewerage system was found to be free of rats and in consequence the Ministry concerned suggested no further treatment would be likely for 12 months when test baiting would then be advisable.

## Atmospheric Pollution.

There are five factory chimneys in the District and observations have been taken to time the emissions of any black smoke. No instances were recorded when it was necessary to contemplate action and a genuine willingness to co-operate in the reduction of smoke is generally found. As was said in a previous report, the largest producer of smoke pollution is the domestic consumer and now may be the time to reconsider the possibility of the creation of a smokeless zone. The prevailing wind being generally South-Westerly, Mountbarrow Road and through Croftlands Estate would offer ideal opportunities as the property is mostly already equipped with means of burning smokeless fuels.

The following is a summary of the principal inspections carried out during the year:-

Housing inspections and re-visits	207
Factory inspections	58
Manufacturers and sale of pork products	9
Butchers shops	25
Manufacture and sale of ice cream	19
Other food premises	64
Shop inspections	30
Investigation of nuisances	22
Knackers Yard	5
Infectious diseases	4
Miscellaneous inspections	27







